

July 2014



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## Washington State FSA Updates

### WA State FSA Office

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Spokane, WA 99201

Phone: 509-323-3000  
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**State Executive Director:**  
Judy Olson

**Farm Loan Chief:**  
Mike Mykines

**Farm Programs Chief:**  
Rod Hamilton

**Next State Committee Meeting:** July 30 at 8:00 am

### Farm Ownership Loans Available

FSA makes and guarantees bank-made loans to farmers and ranchers to build and sustain family farms in support of a thriving agricultural economy.

One of the loan programs FSA offers is the direct farm ownership loan program. Direct loans can be made up to \$300,000 and are handled by farm loan officers in local county offices. Loan funds can be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings, improve structures, replace orchard trees, pay closing costs and invest in soil and water conservation and protection.

Another option available to borrowers is the use of participation funds. If, for example, a particular property is more than the \$300,000 direct loan limit, borrowers are able to apply for both an FSA direct loan and an FSA guaranteed loan from a commercial lender.

More information about FSA loans can be found [here](#), and potential applicants are encouraged to contact your [county office](#).

## Upcoming NAP Deadlines

Producers who obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are required to report annually all production for NAP covered crops. This maintains your compliance with NAP program requirements. Production information can be provided to your county office written or verbally. Regardless of how you choose to provide your production information, it must include a signed CCC-452 form.

The deadline to submit a signed CCC-452 is close of business on **Tuesday, July 15, 2014**. Failure to timely report production may negatively affect future year approved yield calculations for your NAP covered crops.

Additionally, you have until **Monday, September 1, 2014** to purchase 2015 NAP policies for: artichokes; aquaculture; beets (for stecklings); cabbage (for seed or fresh); canola; carrots (for seed); cauliflower (for seed or fresh); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; rutabaga (for seed or fresh); turf grass sod; turnips (for seed or fresh); and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

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## Keeping Farm Records Updated

Please notify your local FSA office of all operational changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. These can include changes in: farm structure, leases, deaths, land ownership and/or address. Updating records in a timely manner can help ensure all required participants appear on documents requiring signatures and prevent payment delays. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete any land ownership changes.

Additionally, you have until **August 1, 2014** to finalize your farm structure. Future 2014 Farm Bill programs will look at the 2014 farm structure for eligibility and other requirements, so any changes or updates must be made before the August deadline to be valid. Even though the new Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) signup will not occur until this winter (see below), changes to your farm's make up, such as adding or dropping land, must be reported to FSA by August 1 to be effective for 2014 and the ARC and PLC decisions you will make later this year.

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## 2013 ACRE Production Reporting Requirement

Producers who participated in the 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program are reminded that as a condition of eligibility for payment, either the operator, owner, or producer with a share of the crop must submit production reports. Production reports are needed for all 2013 ACRE program commodities for which an acreage report greater than zero was submitted. The deadline for submitting production reports is **July 15, 2014**.

Production reports are submitted on form [FSA-658](#) by commodity and are reported by farm and by tract to calculate the farm average yield. You may certify your production information so actual production sheets are not required. Remember, all production certifications are subject to spot check for a three-year period.

Failure to timely complete production reports ([FSA-658](#)) will result in a request for refund of all Direct and ACRE program payments issued for the farm's 2013 ACRE program participation. Contact your [county office](#) for needed forms and more information.

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## Acreage Reporting Reminder

Farmers and ranchers are reminded that filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses can prevent loss of benefits from FSA programs.

Producers of spring seeded crops should prepare to provide your certifications. Orchardists and growers of fall

seeded crops should have already provided acreage certifications to your local FSA office. Any additional plantings or replantings of those fall crops will require an updated acreage report. FSA does not accept reports of acreage prior to the crop being planted.

Producers who suffer losses, or who are prevented from planting a crop, must also document such losses timely. Each notice of loss must include a report of acreage. To receive FSA credit for failed crops, a notice of loss must be filed before disposition of the failed crop. Acreages which cannot be planted timely must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final plant date for the crop being attempted.

To be considered timely filed and to prevent incurring unnecessary fees, all crops and land uses must be reported by the earlier of: the onset of harvesting or grazing of the crop, or **July 15**. Producers with only Conservation Reserve Program acreage to report must do so before **July 15**.

Forage and grazing producers should make note of this requirement, as it is a major change. Acreage reports should be provided before the first cutting of forage if it will occur prior to **July 15**. Grazing producers, who will be turning out prior to July 15, should report those acres prior to grazing commencing.

Even if the reporting date is missed, FSA encourages producers to work with your local county office. FSA has provisions which allow producers to file late and maintain program eligibility. Click [here](#) for the local office contact information to make an acreage reporting appointment.

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## FSA Seeks Nominees for County Committees

The Farm Service Agency is seeking candidates for the upcoming farmer and rancher-elected county committee election. The FSA office will accept nominations through **August 1, 2014**.

FSA county committee members provide the local link between the needs of farmers and ranchers and the federal farm programs. Committee members make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation.

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs, you are considered eligible to vote under the cooperation criteria if you have farm records on file with FSA.

The Name of County Committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats is up for re-election each year.

A map of LAAs open for election this year can be found [here](#).

Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings.

FSA county committee elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2015. FSA will send ballots to all eligible voters.

Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from your [county office](#). Nomination forms may also be obtained online [here](#).

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## CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing and Acreage Take-Out

Due to severe drought throughout much of the eastern half of the state, emergency haying and grazing of

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres may be authorized. Emergency haying and grazing is authorized to provide livestock producers relief from drought or other natural disasters. The following counties have been approved for emergency haying and grazing: Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln, Walla Walla and Yakima.

Grazing is authorized from July 2 through September 30. Haying is authorized from July 2 through August 31. Grazing is limited to 75 percent of the contract acreage or a 75 percent stocking rate. Haying is limited to 50 percent of the acreage in each field or contiguous fields.

Unlike previous years, there will be no payment reduction assessed on contracts taking advantage of emergency haying and grazing. You must obtain authorization from FSA before emergency haying and grazing of CRP.

Additionally, if you are looking for information on taking expiring CRP acres out of the program, [here](#) is a brochure of options.

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## USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

A new website has been created to provide a one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed. The website is [www.usda.gov/newfarmers](http://www.usda.gov/newfarmers).

Among other initiatives, the 2014 Farm Bill supports new farmers and ranchers by:

- Waiving 2014 crop year service fees for the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program; and
- Increasing payments rates under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program.

Updates to these and other changes specific to beginning farmers and ranchers will be posted [here](#).

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## 2012 SURE Deadline

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) has been authorized for crops intended for 2012 harvest and for which losses occurred due to an eligible weather event on or before September 30, 2011. The signup is open until **August 29, 2014**.

More information can be found [here](#), and producers are also encouraged to notify your [county office](#) to apply for 2012 SURE.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).